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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1910

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THE PRESENT CONDITION OF OUR ASSOCIATION

THE exploration of unknown lands and seas has, to my regret, seldom been the subject of essays presented before our association. It would appear that most of those who are active or bold enough to make their way far from the beaten track do not care for the more thorough study of geography to which we are pledged; or perhaps that we, with our interest in the more scientific and analytical aspects of geography, have not been sufficiently cordial to those explorers who go far from home and bring back narratives in which personal adventure almost necessarily has a large place. Nevertheless, we have not been altogether wanting in this respect. We have heard in earlier meetings something of the desert basins of inner Asia, of the lofty plateaus of the Andes, and of the great territory of Alaska; and I trust that we shall again from time to time have reports on distant parts of the world, particularly when they can be presented with such technical geographical skill as characterized the papers just referred to. Some such papers are listed in our program for this meeting, but if I thus call especial attention to the recent studious travels of Messrs. Woodworth, Huntington and Martin, it would be unfitting not to add at least a few words on the extraordinary geographical achievements of the

¹Presidential address at the meeting of the Association of American Geographers, held in Cambridge, Mass., December 30, 1909, modified and extended in certain parts.

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